



Foggy Bottom News

Published for and by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom

seen a round the Bottom

By Mary E. Healy

The most important part of my column this month will be an APPEAL TO ALL WHO READ MY COLUMN. I urge all of you to come to the Feb. 27 FBA meeting to participate in the FIRE PROTECTION Discussion to be conducted by Chief Healy. The recent horrible death by fire of Anne Caneen (who lived in the Potomac Plaza Terraces) shocked us all. And those of us who moved into the Potomac Plaza when it first opened remember a similar death by fire—those of us who saw it will never forget that sight.

Fire hazards creep up on us without our even realizing they are there. They not only endanger our lives but they also endanger lives of our friends and neighbors. We must conscientiously think about how to best avoid a fire and what to do (or not do) if there is one.

Chief Healy will talk to us specifically about fire safety and about changes in fire service in the Bottom over the past 27 years.

A little background on our speaker: Appointed to DC Fire Dept. in 1950; first assigned to Co. 29 on McArthur Blvd; made Battalion Fire Chief in 1972; assigned to the 2nd Battalion (our area) in 1977 with headquarters at Engine Co. #1 at 2225 M St. Chief Healy married Mary Tabor in 1951 and has four children.

Do come to the meeting. I was in a fire when I was a child; except for the help of wonderful neighbors, my grandmother and I would have burned to death. I feel so strongly about the subject that I gladly accepted the assignment to arrange for the speaker for this meeting.

For those hesitant to go out alone in the evenings arrange with a neighbor or friend to go together. I know the Terraces

and the Potomac Plaza are planning to gather in their lobbies and go up as a group. Remember our 6 AM METRO opening of the B STATION. That was fun; let's do it again. I'll lead a brigade up N.H. Ave and 24th Street, starting from the PP at 7:30. Anyone who wants to join in will be welcome—with open arms no less!!!

NOW FOR OUR NORMAL CHIT CHAT.

Did you see what I saw? I hope you did. I couldn't believe my eyes when I turned into the Parkway at Va. Ave—there was the biggest, fattest, dirtiest goose I had ever seen! It looked like dirty snow and was as fat as a 35 pound turkey!

Some of our adventurous Bottomites liked the opening of the Bottom METRO Station so much that they journeyed out to the opening of the Silver Spring Station. Velma Ryan and Mildred Wilkins reported that it was a gala and impressive affair, and that the same spirit of neighborliness which existed at our 6 AM opening was evident at the SP opening. METRO is going to make a regional family out of us yet; just give it time.

JAY Walkers! FB has more of them than the business district downtown. We walk across the street at any place we please; almost like we are walking over a farmland. This practice really is very dangerous, particularly on Va., NH and Pa. Avenues and on 23rd Street. Traffic on these streets is fast moving and comes from every whichaway. Seems sort of silly to put your life in jeopardy just to save a few minutes. It might be well to remember that the city has a drive on against Jay Walkers—they will make a real haul at \$5.00 a crack if they ever come to Foggy Bottom.

During the recent snowstorms the City did a good job in cleaning the major highways and some of the major sidewalks. And NPS did a fine job on the large parks. Some FB residents,

including the apartment buildings, did an excellent job of cleaning sidewalks. The Potomac Plaza even cleaned off the pavements around the small park areas for which a great many of us were grateful. But many of our residents never lifted a finger much less a shovel. The City Ordinance requires that all residents (owners and tenants) clear the pavements in front of their property. Several people in our area were hurt in falls on the ice.

I hope we don't have any more snow this year but if we do, do your share and do a little bit more; some residents are disabled and can't shovel or might be away—an assist from each one of us would be most helpful. (See 'SALT' elsewhere in this issue.)

We're getting very little enforcement of the Residential Parking Program in our area and practically none at the parking meters. If you are still having trouble finding a parking place and you know people are violating the program call #626-2701 to complain.

A nice park walk in our area is at the Federal Reserve Bldg. and the State Dept. at Va. Ave. and E and 20th & 21st Sts. Try it; it's lovely and it's fun to watch the tennis players.

Do you know what a "HALL" is? Well, in the Bottom a "Hall" is either a dormitory or an academic building of GWU. There are 23 different Halls — count 'em here and see if you can spot them when you are walking in the GW area: Bacon, Alexander Graham Bell, Binney, John C. Calhoun, Corcoran, Wm. H. Crawford, Everglades, Hall of Government, Francis Scott Key, Lisner, Madison, Wm. L. Mitchell, James Monroe, Munson, Luther Rice, Walter G. Rose, Samson, Staughton, Stockton, Hattie M. Strong, Gilbert Stuart, Mabel Nelson Thurston and Tompkins Hall of Engineering. If you have any interest in how or why these names were chosen call GW's Public Relations Office on 676-6460.

Spring is coming—a small bright red bird cavorting around with a long slim brown bird in the trees on NH Ave.

For those of you who like iron works there are many interesting pieces in our area. One that I noticed recently is on the Newman Student Center at 2210 F and another right next door at 2212. And for stain glassers the windows on the 24th St. side of 837 Eye (2nd floor) are very interestingly done, as is the Miniature Bottle window at 833 NH. Stop to take a look at these nice things.

How many of us have seen the Walking Mail Man? So many of us live in Apartment houses that we probably think he doesn't exist anymore; but he does and it is very nice to say Hi to him on his rounds of the little houses. Much nicer than talking to a big truck!. SEE YOU FEB. 27. OK?

NEXT MEETING FIRE PROTECTION Speaker: Batallion Fire Chief James J. Healy

Monday, February 27 8pm
St. Paul's Parish House
2430 K St. , NW

(See Seen Around the Bottom for details on meeting)

Letter of Thanks

January 19, 1978

Burton W. Johnson, Chief
D. C. Fire Department
614 H St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Sir:

As a resident owner of one of the apartments at Potomac Plaza Terraces in Foggy Bottom, I want to thank you most sincerely for the wonderful way your men handled the fire that broke out in our building.

We became aware of it in the early hours of Sunday, January 15th, when the alarm sounded. Smoke had already reached the fifth floor where I live, and apparently even higher. Although I was awake when I heard the alarm and am pretty quick on my feet, some of the fire engines had already arrived and men were in the building with hoses when I reached the lobby.

This is the first time I have ever been close to a fire, and it was a frightening experience. One person died and one poor old cat. It is an experience that will make me think for a long time. But it was also my first contact with firemen. Would that all people who have a job to do were as competent, concerned and courteous, and, what surprised me, articulate and understanding as the firemen we talked to when it was all over.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Cooper

Free Income Tax Advice

Free income tax advice will be available for District senior citizens starting Tuesday, February 1, through the TAX-AIDE Program of the National Retired Teachers Association and the American Association of Retired Persons.

Volunteer counselors trained by the Internal Revenue Service will operate in area libraries and community centers. In the Foggy Bottom area the counselors will operate in the West End Library, 24th and L Streets, on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

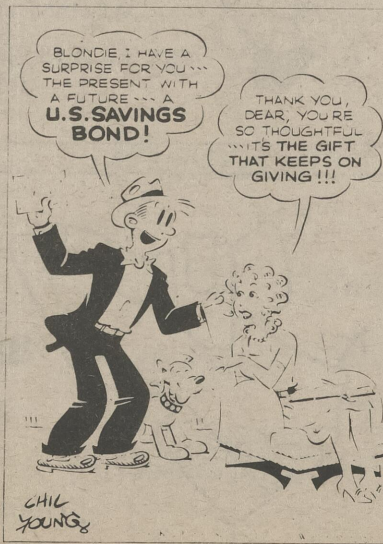
Margaret Packer, coordinator for the tax program, said the service is designed to help older taxpayers understand the various income tax forms and become familiar with the special exemptions available to retirees.

According to Packer, past experience has indicated that many older people are unaware of special exemptions they are entitled to claim. Some may not even be required to file a return because of their limited income.

For further information about program locations, call Ms. Packer at 363-8562.



BLONDIE



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was interested in Antoinette J. Lee's account of Foggy Bottom in the 50's and early 60's (SEAMY SIDE OF FOGGY BOTTOM—January, 1978). As the only founding member of the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association still living in the area, her account doesn't quite coincide with my memories.

I moved into Snow's Court in 1955, into one of the seven houses (nos. 1 to 7) restored by the Robetschers. To the best of my knowledge, this was the first restoration in the area. The police stopped by the night I moved in to tell me they couldn't promise police protection, but police cars did drive through the court regularly. Most cab drivers never heard of Snow's Court, but those who knew the name refused to drive me there at night. With all this I never experienced or witnessed an untoward incident.

Our main concern in that first year was the repeal of the Alley Dwelling Act under which our homes were condemned (an example of excellent legislation of the 20's which was no longer applicable at the time it was finally to be effective.) Two newspaper reporters and Snow's Court residents personally lobbied the repeal through Congress—with no help from the Georgetowners, whose houses were also in jeopardy.

We also, with assistance from the Robetschers, decided we should organize a neighborhood association with the primary purpose of obtaining restoration funds for the area. In early 1956 we founded the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association, the first integrated neighborhood association in Washington. I was the chairman of the first nominating committee. Our first president was John Gunther and vice president was Eleanor Dulles. (She didn't live here but owned most of the houses in Green's Court). Our secretary was Rosa Darnell who represented the Black community. At that time there wasn't an apartment south of K Street and there were many more small homes, now destroyed by the freeways and the apartment houses that dot (blot) our landscape. Naively, we thought we could obtain low interest federal loans under the restoration legislation, so our neighbors could buy and/or restore their homes. I say "naively" because we reckoned without the real estate interests who were gobbling up the vacant spaces and blocks of houses to build apartment houses and medical buildings. (G.W. was one of the villains in our eyes). We were very dimly aware of these forces, but soon found out the facts of economic life in Foggy Bottom. I know it sounds ridiculous, but these interests sent "goons" to break up our meetings. One thing was for sure—our meetings were exciting. We went down swinging, but down we went.

When, about 1960, the philosophy of the Association changed so completely that the members would not fight against the "white only" policy of the new apartment houses, I lost interest in the Association. Now things are different again. The

present concerns of the Association are important for keeping our neighborhood habitable, but they seem to tame compared to the old days.

There was much that was seamy and unpleasant in Foggy Bottom in the 50's, as Ms. Lee indicates. She failed, however, to mention the things that made Foggy Bottom a delightful place to live: the small town atmosphere; the neighborliness of the residents; the children—I miss the boys playing basketball outside my door; the small stores where everyone addressed you by name and many extra services were given as a matter of course; and the quiet (except for the planes). We have come a long way, but some of the fun of living in the Bottom has disappeared in the process.

Carolyn B. Casper
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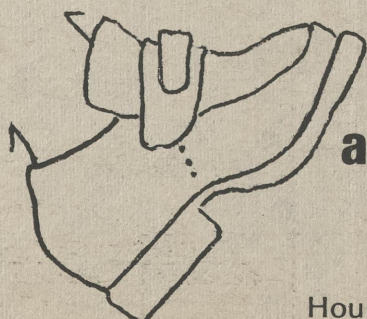
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Foggy Bottom News

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial and other assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

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The opinions expressed in this publications are those of the writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

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FB Farmer

Now is the time to decide which of your dreams of Spring and garden are to become reality in your yard or on your balcony—Morning glories, garden peas, a Golden weeping willow or a Water lily in a tub?



Any number of wooden tubs or plastic trash containers can hold sufficient water to sustain one or two colorful Water lilies growing from a submerged pot or box. The water level should be about one foot above the soil in the container; the container, an eight inch high, largest diameter bulb pan (terra cotta pot) you can find. The 12 inches of water above the 8 inch high container will allow you to set the height of your tub at about two feet. If it's a plastic tub you can do the height-adjusting cutting with a heated awl or knife.

Obtaining the Water lily tuber (a swollen underground stem like a potato) can be a most pleasurable task since on the few Water lily nurseries of the nation is near by—off Interstate 270, just over the Frederick County line on the Way to Frederick, Md.

You take the exit to Route 80, west, continue a mile and a half and follow the signs to the Lily Pons Water Gardens at Lily Pons, Maryland. (the mailing address if you wish their catalog).

Established in 1913, the third generation nursery has pioneered the development of the Water lily fertilizer that accompanies each tuber sold. It was the thriving mail order business that necessitated the establishment of a U.S. Post Office at the Nursery. The founder, Goerge Thomas suggested the post office name and invited Miss Lily Pons, the opera star to the June 1936 dedication. In subsequent years Miss Pons posted her Christmas cards from this aquatic garden hamlet.

With water lilies there's the triple delight of color, form and fragrance—especially with the Tropical water lilies; a night and a day bloomer can be planted together in your tub for sustained flowering and fragrance.

A few practical suggestions: 1) Use a heavy soil, not sandy; sandy soils tend to float out of the containers. 2) Cover the planted tuber with 1/8 inch of sand to keep the Goldfish from rooting in the soil; Goldfish and Water Lilies go together. They also control mosquito larva. 3) With the tropical water lilies don't expect growth until the water temperature reached 70 degrees F. 3) In your tub plant only one tuber per terra cotta pan. 4) Place your tub in full sun; that seems to eliminate the lilies from all but south-facing balconies.

Next Month: How to provide a portable weeping willow for your patio or balcony.

William S. Lattin.



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SALT

The groundhog said it would be a long winter...and he's right. We can't do much about the cold...but we can do something about the slippery ice and snow underfoot. Our thoughtful neighbor, Sondi Moore (Resident Manager of 925 25th Street), has an offer too good to refuse. She will order boxes of salt for us to put down on our steps and sidewalks. The great thing is—the 10 pound boxes measure only 8x8, and have handles. Great for small houses with limited storage space. Each box is \$4.00—or you can order a case of 4 boxes and save money. Get together with neighbors, or stock up for next year. The salt turns pink as it's spread, so you can't over do it.

(NOTE: This is not ordinary salt, but a special formula called ICE-FOE, made of either ammonium sulphate or ammonium nitrate compounds—basically fertilizer components which will not harm grass or vegetation when used as directed).

Orders for salt boxes will be taken through March 10. Save yourself—and neighbors—a bad fall—and give Sondi a call at 337-9050 (Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.). She'll take your name, phone number and order, and call you when the salt arrives. If Sondi is not in, just leave your name and phone number and she will return your call.

**March FBA
Meeting
Monday,
March 27**

Recycling Center

Foggy Bottom residents may be interested to know that our nearby, newly reopened recycling center is now accepting aluminum, in addition to newspapers and phone books. Also, the apartment and office building pick up service (paper only) is going great guns, with over 12 buildings using this free service already.

If you wish to have your building use this service, or would like

to volunteer or need more information, please call Judy Zuckerman at 462-1964.

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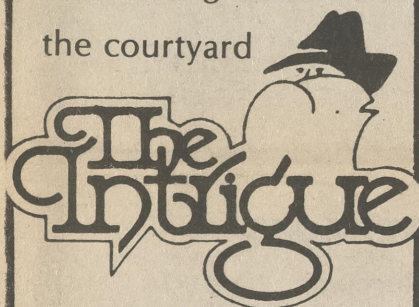
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Abstract—Vegetable

by Irby F. Wood

When Marian Wood of the Potomac Plaza Apartments visited Taipei, Taiwan, she went to see Sun Moon Lake. Enroute to and from the Lake she noticed the intense cultivation that seemed intent on not losing an inch of space. Between the rows of larger plants she noted invariably a tiny green sprout growing.

"What is that small plant growing between the rows?" Marian asked a young soldier, eager to practice his English.

"Vegetable," he replied loconically.

Marian then asked an English speaking honeymooning couple from the Island of Borneo, "Can you tell me what that plant is that I see growing between the rows of larger cultivation?"

"Yest, that's vegetable," they answered, as if surprised that anyone couldn't see that it was vegetable.

Marian got no further than vegetable no matter who she asked, ranging from her guide to the plebeian soldiers and the newly weds of Chinese extraction whose affluent parents had sent them to the best of Western style academies.

But Marian had a friend in Taipei, a PhD, a college professor, a diplomat, a learned sage, and a former resident of Washington, D.C. He would know what that green sprout is that the farmers plant between the rows.

"Dr. Chu, during my trip to and from Sun Moon Lake I noted a small, green plant growing between the rows of larger plants. Can you tell me what it is?" Marian asked.

"Yes," replied Dr. Chu. "It's vegetable."

"I know that, but what kind of vegetable is it?" Marian said.

"Just vegetable," replied Dr. Chu, with finality.

And now to further the point of the foregoing anecdote, let me quote a delightful excerpt from Donald Hall's textbook, "Writing Well."—"Suppose we look up vegetable. More than three columns of small print chronicle the life of the word which began as an adjective meaning, "Having vegetating properties of plants; living and

growing as a plant organism endowed with the lowest form of life." The earliest example is 1400. The poet Lydgate, a couple of decades later, wrote of the wind (spelling modernized) "...that is some comfortable/For to nourish things vegetable." When Andrew Marvel wrote his "To His Coy Mistress" two and a half centuries later (1678), he used the adjective the same way: "My vegetable love should grow/Vaster than empires and more slow." Six examples (complete with small text) come between Lydgate and Andrew Marvel.

"Meanwhile, the noun, vegetable, got started in 1582, when an author named J. Hester spoke of "The Hidden Vertues of sondrie Vegetables, Animalles, and Mineralles." The reader can discover thirty-six contexts for the word as a noun from 1582 to modern use-and many shades of meaning." Then Donald Hall adds that if one takes pleasure in words, one will find that one's sensitivity to the insides of them increases the more one knows the history of words.

Marian has entertained her friends with anecdotes of her travels on the Trans-Siberian Railroad from Moscow to Nakhoda on the Pacific coast of Siberia, through Japan, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore and on to Taiwan, but for this scribbler, the story concerning a word and its usage outlived all of her other stories.

Why should that isolated experience retain its freshness so much keener in comparison to the other colorful anecdotes? I suppose it's because WORDS, as symbols for ideas, reveal the idiosyncracies not only of translation but of communication in general. One discovers sooner or later, in the study of words, that if one uses them understandingly, they evoke a positive, beneficial and reciprocal influence.

In the experience of Marian Wood on Taiwan, the difficulty lay in the difference between vegetable as a general or abstract term and of, say *spinach*, as a specific or concrete term. Marian never learned specifically just what that small, green sprout was that grew between the rows of larger plants.



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